



E-News

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NHSN Meeting in Tampa prompts change in NHSN Report

Approximately 110 people attended the NHSN meeting at the APIC Conference in Tampa on June 14. Mary Andrus, Jonathan Edwards and James Tolson each gave a brief presentation followed by a lively discussion about the NHSN Report and submitting 2005 data. Prompted by this discussion, a decision was made not to use data from 2005 but to begin aggregation of data with January 2006. The following email was sent to hospitals participating in NHSN:

“Those of you who attended the NHSN Members meeting at the APIC Conference in Tampa will recall that we asked those present to please submit their 2005 data within the next month, so that we can prepare the next national summary report. This request prompted a lively discussion about two main issues: 1) your limited time and resources to enter the data (many of you had entered them already into IDEAS, so this would be duplicative work) and 2) the fact that 2005 was a sentinel year in terms of prevention initiatives (e.g., IHI bundles, SIP measures, etc.) for many of your facilities.

Unless we can map NNIS data from ICUs and operative procedures to the same ICUs and operative procedures reported to NHSN for 2005 onward, and unless we know whether, when, where and for how long prevention interventions were used, we will not be able to determine if rate decreases are real or artifact.

After careful consideration, we are leaning towards starting over again with comparative rate calculations using only data from 2006 onward. Therefore, until you hear otherwise from us, please do NOT enter 2005 data, unless you need it for your own purposes. We will let you know definitively about this as soon as we clear it through our Division Director.”

We'll keep you posted on the final decision and the progress of the NHSN Report.

Tips from the Trenches

If you are considering adding a procedure to follow for a given month, please remember to add that procedure to your Monthly Reporting Plan before you enter any denominator records for that procedure.

- If a procedure is not yet in your plan, the NHSN application

will allow you to leave certain fields empty when the record is saved.

- If you have saved procedures with fields missing and then try to edit the plan for that month, when you save the plan, you will get the following message: **“Incomplete procedures exists for the month. These procedures were saved as non-protocol procedures and must now be completed before you can change the Plan to include them.”**
- In order to add this procedure to your Monthly Reporting Plan, you must go back and review each procedure that was entered to find the field(s) that was not completed. Only after you complete all fields required and save the procedure record, will you be able to add that procedure to your Monthly Reporting Plan.

NHSN Statistics - as of June 23, 2006

Facilities enrolled and submitting data to NHSN	244
Monthly Reporting Plans	2,574
Patients entered	93,663
Summary Data Records	4,632
Events entered	105,015
Bloodstream Infection (BSI)	4,054
Pneumonia (PNEU)	2,443
Surgical Site Infections (SSI)	3,681
Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)	3,241
Dialysis Incidents (DI)	2,553
Procedures	87,077
Facilities uploading OR procedure data	7
Output (Tables, Graphs, etc.) generated	13,210

Changes to BSI Criteria

Because they were so seldom used, the “antigen test” criteria are no longer included in the BSI definitions. For LCBI, Criterion 2c and 3c have been removed. For the CSEP criteria, the words “or antigen” have been removed. These changes will appear in the NHSN Patient Safety Protocol document with the next revision, but you can make them in your copy of the document now.

Operations with Implants

As you know, NHSN will now accept SSI events that occur >30 days following a procedure where an implant was used. Please remember, however, that implants are only a factor if the SSI is either deep (e.g., DIP or DIS) or Organ/Space. Superficial SSIs are followed for only 30 days post-procedure regardless of whether or not an implant was used. Please look at the SSI criteria as a refresher for definitions that include implants.

